



APRA HARBOR, Guam (January 12, 2006) - As part of the 2007 Phased Maintenance Availability (PMA) on submarine tender USS Frank Cable (AS 40), this 30-ton crane will be fitted with new parts and given a fresh coat of protective paint. The crane is a vital piece of equipment that helps the ship provide services to submarines deployed to the Seventh Fleet. The PMA began January 8 and will last through April. It includes work on the inside and out, from boilers to bulkheads. U.S. Navy Photo by MC1(SW) Jeremy Johnson (RELEASED)

Frank Cable Kicks Off Four Month Multimillion PMA

USS Frank Cable Public Affairs

Apra Harbor, Guam (January 12, 2007) – The crew of the Pacific Fleet’s only submarine tender, USS Frank Cable (AS 40), began a four month, multimillion dollar Phased Maintenance Availability (PMA) January 8.

From January through April, a variety of projects ranging from painting and cleaning to structural replacements and system check-ups are on the list of things to do.

Much of the work will be performed by Guam Shipyard under the direction of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, who sent representatives to help with the process. Guam Shipyard was awarded a \$6 million contract for the project.

A PMA is a normal part of the life of a U.S. Navy vessel and is designed to address issues related to aging and maintain critical systems at their peak operation. In the case of the 28-year-old Frank Cable, the PMA will be an extended “tune-up” period.

According to the ship’s Assistant Supply Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Brett Stevens, the work is vital because it addresses the overall state of the ship and affects the crew.

“This PMA gives us a chance to look at maintenance, yes, but I think it’s also important to note the time and funds going into quality of life projects. We have work being done to improve quality of life in the Chief’s Mess, the crew’s mess and the first class mess.”

The work on the crew's mess is mainly equipment, but consists of replacing the older serving lines with newer ones. It also includes upgrading the equipment used for self-service, including beverage machines and a dessert station. During the last PMA, conducted in early 2006, the crew's mess received a major cosmetic overhaul to both the floors and walls.

On the outside of the ship, work will be done to keep the ship performing as well as any other in the fleet. Frank Cable's Boatswain or "Bos'n", Chief Warrant Officer Dennis Siler, said several projects are planned to preserve the pieces of equipment that support the ship's primary mission: servicing submarines in the western Pacific Ocean.

"During this PMA, we're going to be removing all three anchors and chains to have them blasted, preserved and painted. The associated chain lockers will also be preserved, repaired and painted.

"We're also going to overhaul the 30-ton centerline crane. As part of the project, the boom for this crane will be removed, blasted and painted."

The crane is vital for moving pieces of equipment needed to tend submarines.

Already, the intensity of the work has Sailors on the ship adjusting to a new way of doing things. The majority of the ship's administrative functions have been moved to a floating barge next to the tender.

Making the move successful included connecting to the ship's local area network, a permanent fixture, by running several hundred feet of network cable on the pier.

"In fact, it was really more complicated than just running cable because it's not even a direct line," said Chief Information Technician Brady Duff. Duff is the Division Officer for the ship's Data Processing shop. "We've had 10 people and more than 500 man-hours go into getting the barge LAN up and running."

Another adjustment the crew is facing is the loss of messing facilities while the ship undergoes some of the work. Because they can't eat on the ship, the crew is now receiving full basic allowance for sustenance (BAS).

To partially accommodate the lack of a "cafeteria", the ship's supply department arranged for food vendors to set up shop on the pier. Among those who volunteered are McDonald's, Subway, a smoothie shack and a barbeque stand.

Stevens and several others worked closely with the Navy Exchange Services Operations Manager, Ms. Bernie Mendiola, to get the vendors to volunteer. To make it possible for these companies to operate, they also had to get canopies, power, water and waste removal paid for and in place.

Though the ship is going through its own repairs, work on submarines won't stop. The submarine tender will still continue to support the silent fleet of the Pacific through regular repairs and maintenance.

"We are still using the capabilities of our shops aboard the tender to perform the maintenance and repairs of tended units," said Hull Technician Master Chief Larry Rucker, "even with the conditions and limitations imposed upon us by the PMA."

Rucker, the ship's Repair Master Chief, continued by noting that there's always work to be done.

"It is service to the fleet no matter what. During the PMA time frame we'll be conducting full service availabilities on everything from pump overhauls to sheet metal fabrication to welding services. Throw in some calibration and scope work and you have a very full day... tending subs that is."

USS Frank Cable is commanded by Captain Leo Goff and is forward deployed to Apra Harbor, Guam in support of submarines deployed to the Seventh Fleet. For more information on the ship, visit <http://www.cable.navy.mil>.